

## [Early Days Around Deming]

Mrs Ed Pennington age 84

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Early Days around Deming

In the spring of 1883 we left Little Rock, Arkansas and came to Las Vegas where we only stayed a short time. [?] husband came to Las Vegas in January and when he sent for me in the spring he wrote and said [?] God sake bring some table clothes, for all they know out here is oil cloth and I had rather run my hand over a snake then feel, of them. brought only a few pieces of silver and dishes and these table cloths.

We had been in Las Vegas only a short time, and decided that the climate was not going to do us any good as wee were both [lugers?] , my [?] husband decided to come to Deming, and as he was a newspaper man he bought [?] the Headlight, and later the Deming Tribune and Headlight Democrat and combined them all three into one paper..

The Indians under Geronime had been causing the settlers a lot of trouble stealing horses and killing people that were not around town. The people of Deming united and began to drill [te wi e?] out the indians as they were tired of the deperdations and raids. General Cooke never did have a chance to catch the Indians as his men rode large cavalry horses

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and the small pintos of the Indians soon left the soldiers behind, and if they were pushed to hard the warriors took to the hill [afect?].

The people had been training and drilling for around ten months when they decided it was time to take thing in their hand and wipe out the Indians word reached Washington of their preparations, and General Cooke was called to Washington and General Miles sent out to take his place. General Miles had [Geranime?] in less then two months. It took several special guards besides the soldiers to keep the people from mobbing the Apaches as they were being taken to Fort Sill.

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When my husband came to Deming he said that he though Las Vegas was the end of civilization, but Gold help this country.

When we arrived here he had rented us a room with a [lesants?] for thirty dollars a month, and we had to carry water three blocks.

I have some pictures taken of the Indians on the war path with their bodies panted and the trousers that the government had [gi?] given them, cut off, above the knees. In the day time we would watch them on the mountains with the field glasses and at night could see t their fires.

When my husband left the house he always locked me and the children and told us to not get out. It wasn't only the Indians that he was afraid of, but as there were always fights on the street he was always afraid that we could be hurt. One night the people in town became [t?] tired of the crowd that was always shooting up the town and killed seven and left them lying on the steps of the station.

By the year of 1885 it was for a woman to go anywhere. I have ridden the range more than one day hunting cattle and our horse. I owned one of the two Arabian horses in this

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country, and was not [?] afraid to go any where. I had a friend that I rode with a lot and we would go to anyones ranch and stop, and take a meal and go on our way.

People were living in all kind of make shift houses when we came in here. One family up on the hill was living under a piece of oil cloth stretched over twopoles with a hole cut in the oil cloth to put the stoves pipe through. This family lived in this place for over a year.